Upgradation of Bagdogra Airport

170. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bagdogra Airport has been recently upgraded; and

(b) if so, whether the Indian Airlines will now immediately restore daily flights from Kolkata to Bagdogra and *vice-versa* since this is most crucial link between the North and South of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave at Bagdogra Airport. A new terminal building with all modern passenger facilities to cater to 500 passengers at a time, at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crores has been commissioned on 8th September, 2000. Customs and Immigration facilities are also available to handle limited international flights.

(b) Indian Airlines is currently operating three flights a week between Kolkata and Bagdogra. At present, there is no plan to increase the frequency to daily service due to shortage of aircraft with Indian Airlines.

Introduction of Boeing-737 services from Jabalpur

†171. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Indian Airlines Boeing-737 services are being introduced from Jabalpur;

(b) the sector in which these services will be operated;

(c) whether flights of Dornier-228 will be stopped after the introduction of Boeing service; and

(d) if not, whether any extension is proposed in it?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.